

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 OFA-01 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV OCON TBIO UR EFIS UK

SUBJ: 27TH ANNUAL MEETING, INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION(IWC),
JUNE 23-27, LONDON

REF: A. STATE 46073; B. MOSCOW 3881

1. SCIOFFICER MET WITH DR. V.G. LAFITSKIY OF MINISTRY OF FISHERIES,
WHO IS A SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE TO THE IWC, MARCH 26 TO DISCUSS
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SOVIET VIEWS ON THE "AUSTRALIAN AMENDEMENT" AD TO RAISE POINTS

IN REF A. ALOS PRESENT WAS DR. M.V. IVASHIN, A MEMBER OF THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

2. LAFITSKIY SAID THAT THE USSR HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED A FINAL POSITION REGARDING REDUCTIONS AND ALLOCATIONS OF WHALE TAKES WHICH WILL BE RECOMMENDED AT THE JUNE IWC MEETING. HE ADDED THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE USSR POSITION WILL BE DECIDED UPON UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE THE MEETING. SOVIET SCIENTISTS STILL MUST STUDY DATA ON ANTARCTIC WHALE STOCKS RECENTLY OBTAINED BY THE SOVIET WHALING FLEET. SOVIET SCIENTISTS ARE ALSO WAITING FOR DATA ON OTHER COUNTRIES' WHALE TAKES WHICH IS TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL WHALING STATISTICS IN MAY. NO DECISIONS ON THE SOVIET POSITION CAN BE MADE UNTIL THIS DATA HAS BEEN STUDIED BY THE SOVIETS.

3. THE SOVIET POSITION ON MINKE WHALE QUOTAS HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED, ACCORDING TO LAFITSKIY. HE DID NOT SPECIFY, BUT NOTED THAT SOVIET DATA INDICATES THAT MINKE WHALE STOCKS ARE IN GOOD SHAPE. AS PROOF OF THIS, LAFITSKIY SAID THAT THE JAPANESE TOOK THEIR ALLOTTED QUOTE OF MINKE WHALES BEFORE THE END OF THE SEASON.

4. LAFITSKIY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE USSR WOULD AGREE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SEI WHALE STOCKS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE BECAUSE SOVIET SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT THE STOCK SITUATION IS NOT AS SERIOUS AS SOME OTHER COUNTRIES THINK.

5. IN REGARD TO A TEN-YEAR MORATORIUM, LAFITSKIY SAID HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS PROPOSED AT THE IWC MEETING. SINCE WHALE STOCKS HAVE BEEN INCREASING IT WOULD BE EASY TO REFUTE ARGUMENTS FAVORING A MORATORIUM. THIS, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD MAKE AGREEMENT ON QUOTAS MUCH EASIER TO OBTAIN.

6. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, LAFITSKIY PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY OF OFFICIAL SOVIET POSITION ON "AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT" PROPOSALS WHEN IT FIRMS UP.

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